As new treatments emerge for the management of MS, physicians and patients are facing challenging discussions about risk, benefits and other factors to collaboratively determine the best course for any given patient. Meanwhile, physicians and scientists are looking at ways in which biomarkers might open more doors to personalized medicine.

**Oral Tecfidera: Now Available**

Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate, formerly known as BG-12) ([http://www.nationalmssociety.org/about-multiple-sclerosis/what-we-know-about-ms/treatments/medications/tcf50/index.aspx](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/about-multiple-sclerosis/what-we-know-about-ms/treatments/medications/tcf50/index.aspx)) was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in March 2013 as a first-line therapy for adults with relapsing forms of MS. In two clinical trials, this oral agent significantly reduced relapses and MRI activity. In one study, it reduced the risk of disability progression.

**In the Pipeline**

Lemtrada (alemtuzumab): a humanized monoclonal antibody directed at CD52 ([http://www.msddiscovery.org/research-resources/drug-pipeline/501-alemtuzumab](http://www.msddiscovery.org/research-resources/drug-pipeline/501-alemtuzumab)) that was originally approved for the treatment of B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia. In the pivotal trials, ([http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3582310/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3582310/)) may be helpful in the discussion.)

Glaltramer acetate (Copaxone) 40mg/1mL (Teva): a higher concentration dose of the medication that allows less frequent dosing ([http://www.msddiscovery.org/research-resources/drug-pipeline/332-glaltramer-acetate#glaltramer-acetate](http://www.msddiscovery.org/research-resources/drug-pipeline/332-glaltramer-acetate#glaltramer-acetate)) has been accepted for review by the FDA.

**Making Treatment Decisions**

With 10 treatment options for relapsing MS, and more on their way, patients and their doctors must consider benefits, tolerability, long-term risks, and other complex factors ([http://cp.neurology.org/content/2/2/122.full](http://cp.neurology.org/content/2/2/122.full)) to determine the best option for any particular individual. As an example, this risk stratification tool for natalizumab ([http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23634358](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23634358)) may be helpful in the discussion.)


**Breaking News**


The Multiple Sclerosis Emergency Therapies Collaborative. ([http://www.ms-coalition.org/emergenttherapies/](http://www.ms-coalition.org/emergenttherapies/)) promotes optimal, individualized treatment of MS.

**Resources**


Informed medical decision-making ([http://www.peerviewpress.com/6-some-steps-to-shared-decision-making](http://www.peerviewpress.com/6-some-steps-to-shared-decision-making)) is a tool for clinicians.


For additional information for healthcare professionals and MS researchers, including research and clinical updates, and professional publications and tools to support your practice, please visit our website.

To find your local National MS Society Chapter, get involved with Society activities, and refer your patients to local MS Society programs and services, click here: [Find A Chapter](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/).